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The Eagle

U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command

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THAAD achieves intercept flight test goals

(Excerpted from a Missile Defense Agency press release)

Air Force Lt. Gen. Henry "Trey" Obering, Missile Defense Agency director, announced that a successful test for the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense Element was conducted July 12 at approximately 5:20 a.m. MDT (7:20 a.m. EDT) at the White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

Initial indications are that all planned flight test objectives were achieved. This was a fully-integrated flight test of all THAAD Components, including the Launcher, Radar, Fire Control and Communications, and Interceptor. The primary objective was to demonstrate interceptor seeker characterization of a ballistic missile target in the high-endoatmosphere (just inside the earth's atmosphere). A unitary (non-separating) Hera target missile was launched for the test and although it was not a primary objective, a successful intercept of the target occurred. Other objectives included verifying integrated system operations in a high-endoatmospheric engagement and demonstrating the interceptor's kill vehicle's response to in-flight communication and its ability to acquire and track an incoming ballistic missile target. The THAAD radar participated by acquiring and tracking the interceptor and target and providing in-flight target updates.

THAAD Soldiers from the 6th Air Defense Artillery Brigade participated in this test with two Soldiers conducting radar operations, two Soldiers assisting contractors at the Launcher, and one Soldier assisting contractors at the THAAD Fire Control and Communications. Their interaction with the complete THAAD system proved a valuable test experience

for the Soldiers, and provided insight into overall system performance.

While the previous two THAAD flight tests, also conducted at White Sands Missile Range, were focused on interceptor fly-out and performance, the remaining flight test program is providing verification of the integrated THAAD element at increasingly difficult levels.

THAAD uses technologies developed in earlier Missile Defense Agency programs and during the THAAD Program Development and Risk Reduction Phase. It is the first weapon system with both endo- and exoatmospheric (outside earth's atmosphere) capability developed specifically to defend against ballistic missiles. The THAAD element will provide upper-tier defense in the terminal phase segment (approximately final minute of a missile's flight) of MDA's integrated Ballistic Missile Defense System. The BMDS is capable of providing a layered defense for the United States, deployed forces, friends and allies against ballistic missiles of all ranges in all phases of flight. The higher altitude and theater-wide protection offered by THAAD provides more protection of larger areas than lower-tier systems alone. THAAD is designed to defend against short, medium and intermediate range ballistic missiles. THAAD is a highly-mobile, integrated weapon system consisting of a Radar, Fire Unit,

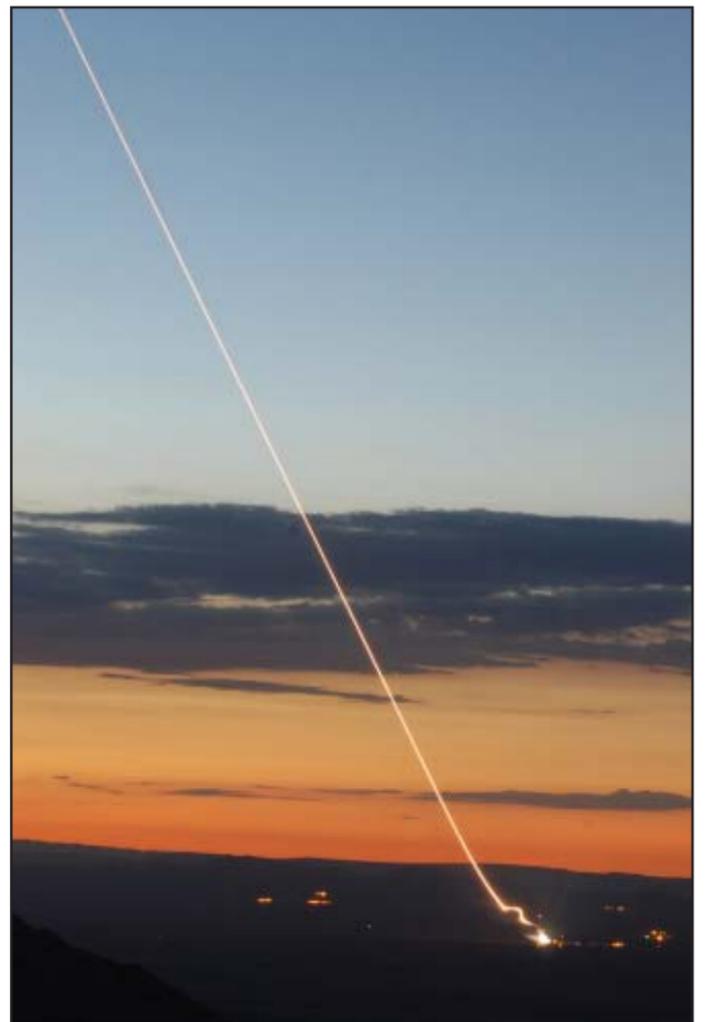


Photo courtesy of Missile Defense Agency

The Missile Defense Agency conducts a successful test for the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense Element July 12 at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

Launchers and Interceptors.

The THAAD Program is managed by the Missile Defense Agency in Washington, D.C., and executed by the THAAD Project Office in Huntsville, Ala. Lockheed Martin Corporation is the prime contractor.

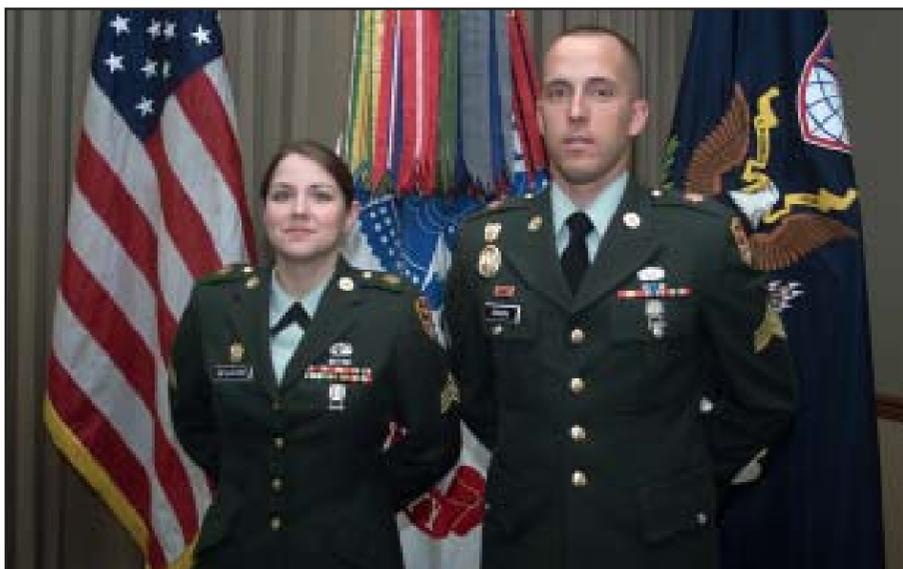


Photo by Dennis Plummer

2006 SMDC/ARSTRAT NCO and Soldier of the Year announced

Sgt. Stacy-Lyn De La Hoz (left), Bravo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, stationed at Fort Meade, Md., and Sgt. Patrick J. Mann, Charlie Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, stationed at Landstuhl, Germany, were chosen as U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command's 2006 Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year, respectively, during competition conducted in June. With about 150 years of military experience between them, six command sergeants major from SMDC/ARSTRAT met in Colorado Springs, Colo., to observe four NCO candidates and four Soldier candidates in an array of events designed to choose the NCO and Soldier of the Year for the command. De La Hoz and Mann will compete for top Army honors at the Department of Army NCO and Soldier of the Year competitions which will be held at Fort Lee, Va., this fall. (See story on pages 8-9.)

The Command Corner



Lt. Gen. Larry J. Dodgen
Commanding General



CSM David L. Lady
Command Sergeant Major

Our nation, allies and friends face common threats that create significant regional security challenges which have the potential to affect global and geo-strategic situations. These threats include the increasing proliferation of ballistic and cruise missile systems and related technologies, and the aggressive manner rogue-state and non-state actors are pursuing weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them.

The launch of several ballistic missiles, including one with an estimated range capable of reaching United States soil, by North Korea on July 4, 2006, is a clear example of a regional threat having potential global consequences. Countries around the world condemned the launches. Fortunately, the tracking of the ballistic missiles by terrestrial and space-based sensors indicated the missiles launched posed no threat to the United States or its territories.

These launches further validate the importance of what this command does as part of the nation's Ballistic Missile Defense System. Members of our command, globally positioned around the world, were fully prepared to immediately execute the directions of the responsible military and civilian leadership. Knowing the United States possessed a limited capability to successfully engage long-range ballistic missiles gave our nation's leaders the full range of response options to consider. Our missile defense crews were standing by to execute the mission for which they have been trained, tested and exercised repeatedly. Tremendous progress has been made in a very short time in building and integrating the ballistic missile defense system. Much work remains, and the actions planned this year and for the future will significantly enhance our capabilities. Each and every one of you has my full trust and confidence, and I am proud of your commitment to our mission and the defense of our homeland.

I also want to personally congratulate the USASMDC/ARSTRAT's 2006 Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year. The 2006 NCO of the Year is Sgt. Stacy-Lyn De La Hoz, Company B, 53d Signal Battalion, Fort Meade, Md. The 2006 Soldier of the Year is Sgt. Patrick J. Mann, Company C, 53d Signal Battalion, Landstuhl, Germany. Please join me in congratulating them and wishing them the best of luck as they compete for and represent our Command's Soldiers at the Army 2006 NCO and Soldier of the Year selection boards in September 2006.

I want to additionally congratulate Col. Doug Wheelock, one of our Army astronauts, on his selection to serve as a NASA mission specialist aboard the space shuttle on mission STS-120, with a yet-to-be-announced flight window. Col. Wheelock's mission will support the International Space Station on which Col. Jeffrey Williams, another of our Army astronauts, is currently serving and is in the middle of a six-month mission.

There are plenty of days remaining before schools reopen and the summer comes to a close. I encourage everyone to take some time off and spend it with family and friends as much as the mission will allow. I do not want anyone in this command to lose leave — I expect leaders to take the necessary action to ensure your people are taken care of.

SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!

It has been a good year for the SMDC/ARSTRAT Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Professional Development Program. Solid leader-development programs are conducted in each of our units. Our 1st Space Battalion is especially distinguished for organizing situational training exercises to teach leader tasks to the NCO Corps, but all units are meeting or exceeding the Army standard for NCO development.

Recognition of outstanding NCOs continued as SMDC/ARSTRAT inducted Sgt. Alexander White into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club in March 2006. Another selection board will consider candidates before the end of the fiscal year, and I am sure that several other Soldiers will earn their way into this elite NCO honorary group.

We have also conducted the most rigorous Noncommissioned and Soldier of the Year Selection Board in our history as a major Army command/Army Service Component Command. With many fewer resources than other Army Commands, SMDC/ARSTRAT conducted a series of selection events that were fully as rigorous and demanding as any in the Army. Our selectees, Sergeants De La Hoz and Mann, will go forward to the Army NCO/Soldier of the Year Selection with the confidence that only comes from completing difficult tasks and exceeding high standards.

Our eight candidates competed in the following areas:

- M16A1 Rifle Qualification
- Day and Night Land Navigation, utilizing map/compass and GPS to find points on the ground
- Hands-on Weapons Tasks, requiring Soldiers to disassemble, assemble, and perform function checks on the M16A1 rifle, the M9 pistol, the M2 Machine Gun, the M240B Machine Gun, and the M246 Squad Automatic Weapon
- Situational Training Exercise (STX), requiring each Soldier to lead a patrol through a series of obstacles and enemy contact — As they did so, each candidate was evaluated in 10 leader and Warrior tasks
- A written examination of leader and Warrior tasks
- Writing an essay on a leadership topic, selected by the SMDC/ARSTRAT CSM
- Presenting a five-minute briefing on the same leadership topic
- Undergoing 35 minutes of rapid-fire military knowledge questions from a panel of the six SMDC/ARSTRAT command sergeants major

The eight candidates represented both 1st Space and 100th MD Brigades. They had been selected at the four SMDC/ARSTRAT Regional Selection Boards, conducted in April and May 2006. They arrived into Colorado Springs by June 13, received their mission briefing, and began testing the next day. They were challenged, and they gave their all.

We owe thanks to the brigade and battalion commanders who supported the competition by fencing time and personnel over the 10-day period. We owe thanks to a number of staff officers and workers who found equipment and resources and who assisted the program at every step. Finally, we owe thanks to our unit command sergeants major who planned

See **NCOY/SOY** on page 3

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What We Think

The Eagle asks:

If given the opportunity to go up to the International Space Station, would you go, and why?



Nelda Reynolds
Paralegal Specialist
Office of Command Counsel
Huntsville, Ala.

I would most definitely volunteer for a trip in the space shuttle to the International Space Station. I have always been an adventurous type person and intrigued with air travel since I was very young. It would be most thrilling to view our planet from outer space. I am also trying hard to get my grandsons interested by taking them on frequent visits to the Space and Rocket Center. I had the opportunity to actually go inside one of the enormous Solid Rocket Boosters at NASA, here in Huntsville, in the early 80s which really "fueled my interest!"



Dawayne R. Bacon
Personnel Assistant
G-1
Arlington, Va.

Not saying I wouldn't be nervous, but I would go just to see the earth in its sovereign state of appeared peacefulness. It would be as if I was window shopping and saw the most beautiful jewel. I could marvel at its craftsmanship knowing it was created to be enjoyed, away from all the calamities of war in this life we live.



Lt. Col. John Hutson
Staff Judge Advocate
Arlington, Va.

Absolutely! I watched the Gemini and Apollo missions as a kid and have dreamed of space travel ever since!



Rafael Santos
Officer Strength Manager
Military Personnel Division
G-1
Colorado Springs, Colo.

If I had the opportunity I would definitely take advantage of it. I would do it because there is a whole new and different world out there that we know very little about. Astronauts come and describe it to us but it is not the same as seeing it for yourself. Additionally, being a part of the team at the International Space Station means that you are not only doing something for the United States, or your country if from somewhere else, but for the entire world and humanity, and there is nothing more important than that!



Dave Dillon
FCI SETA Support
CWB SSE Division
(WGS, GBS, DSCS)
Command Information Office/G-6
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Absolutely! I have always dreamed of going into space. The chance to do so is not currently an opportunity for the vast majority of the population. It would be like being among the first people to ride in a Model T or fly across the Atlantic. Sure, one day such trips will be commonplace, but today they are the stuff of dreams. Today's astronauts are all heroes putting their lives on the line each launch to expand our knowledge of space travel. To be able to purchase a trip would be fun, but to be able to be an astronaut would be a dream come true. Today's ISS will eventually lead to routine travel throughout our solar system and beyond. To be able to look back one day and say, "I was part of that," would make it worth the risks.



Susan Tidwell
Executive Assistant to the Associate
Director for Air Force Army Program
Integration
Office of the Deputy to the Commander
for Research, Development and
Acquisition
Huntsville, Ala.

I believe visiting the International Space Station would be one of the most exhilarating and thrilling experiences in my life and if given the opportunity, I would go. It would be so fascinating to witness firsthand how it would physically feel to go into space and be part of U.S. history. However, get me back within a couple of weeks; there are no shopping malls in space, and I'm sure it would be time for Parisian's One Day Sale!



Staff Sgt. William Gallagher
Force Protection NCO
49th Missile Defense Battalion
Fort Greely, Alaska

Yes, I would go; it's a chance for the experience of a lifetime — something not many people get to do.

NCOY/SOY

continued from page 2

and prepared the events and to our outstanding group of sergeants who conducted each event and enforced high standards throughout the period.

I must single out Command Sgt. Maj. Darryl Sumpter, 1st Space

Brigade, as the most valuable member of the team who carried out our NCO/Soldier of the Year Selection. His unit hosted the competition, and he personally ensured that facilities and resources were available, coordination was accomplished, and that resources were available throughout the six

months of preparation and execution of the selection. Well done, Command Sgt. Maj. Sumpter.

Our Soldiers benefit from excellent leaders. Identifying and developing excellent leaders is a core Army task that SMDC/ARSTRAT does very well.

ON POINT!

Reed assumes command of USAKA

By Nell Drumheller
Editor, *Kwajalein Hourglass*

KWAJALEIN ATOLL, Republic of the Marshall Islands — Col. Beverly Stipe said a tearful goodbye July 11 as a prelude to the U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll change of command.

Stipe transferred command to Col. Stevenson Reed in a ceremony at the Davye Davis Multi-purpose Room.

"This is a bittersweet occasion," U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of the Marshall Islands Greta Morris said at the ceremony. "Over the past two years, Col. Stipe and I have worked closely together to ensure that USAKA was able to carry out its strategic mission for the security of the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the entire Pacific region."

The ambassador continued, "There are many other things that USAKA, under Col. Stipe's leadership, has done and is doing, to strengthen our strategic, close and unique relationship with the RMI and our ability to work together to meet the new demands of our time, to promote our mutual security and to protect the freedoms that both our peoples hold dear. Sam, thank you for your strong leadership and dedication. Thank you for your friendship."

And to Reed, Morris said, "Col. Reed, I hope that you and your family will enjoy your time in Kwajalein and the Marshall Islands as much as I have. Kwajalein is a very special place, and you will be working with wonderful people."

Reed has had more than a year to prepare for his assignment as the USAKA commander. "I was told by my leadership at Fort Bliss [Texas] that I was selected to command Kwajalein in April 2005," he said.

He spoke to two previous USAKA commanders to learn about the mission and activities on Kwajalein, but admitted, "I really did not know the depth of the mission, until I visited the island in April. I was truly amazed and impressed to see what Kwajalein provided to the joint community."

Reed described his first impression of Kwajalein, "[This is] a place with tremendous potential. A community that is simply beautiful and picturesque with approximately 3,400 Americans and Marshallese employees and family members on Kwajalein, Meck and Roi-Namur Islands. I have seen all of the many new construction projects on the different islands and I have seen facilities that I think take away from the beauty the islands have to offer. I

would like to build some timelines and start removing those facilities."

Though on the island for a short time, Reed has considered USAKA's role within the bigger Army picture. "I see the mission of Ballistic Missile Defense Testing as the primary mission for Kwajalein, but I also see the need to incorporate more new foreign-launch and space operations into our mission based upon our location and the current demands. We also want to continue working to support more missile testing for the Army, but other DOD [Department of Defense] agencies as well," he said.

And how does Reed think the mission will change in the next five years? "The reduction of our footprint is going to happen and that action is already in the planning phase. I see the fiber optic cable from Kwajalein to Guam back to the mainland making all the difference and opening new opportunities for the mission. I see more agencies coming back to Kwajalein after the 2008 period when the cable is in place and the capabilities are marketed and demonstrated to the customers."

Reed, a veteran of 23 years in the U.S. Army, will spend the next two years on Kwajalein as an unaccompanied commander. His wife, Yvonne, will remain in El Paso, Texas. "I guess what should be known by those who ask [why his wife is not accompanying him] is the fact that for 22 years of marriage, my spouse has followed and supported my career. Initially, she sacrificed not completing her master's degree until last month to support my career and has been involved with the Family Readiness Group at all levels. She has truly been supportive for 22 out of my 23-year career," he said.

"However, we now have two children in college which is expensive, and with the conflict of interest always being a consideration for us, we decided that her working in her field of drug and alcohol counseling and being close to the children in El Paso was essential for our family. Although, it was a family decision, I did discuss this issue with my leadership, and they understood our rationale," he added.

Reed said that while the family separation will be tough, he doesn't think it will adversely affect his abilities to command USAKA. "I now have two families which I will have to be attentive to. Kwajalein Atoll has become the first family and the Reeds are now the second. I will continue to have events like our annual Christmas tree lighting ceremonies or our



Photo by Nell Drumheller

Col. Stevenson Reed, left, accepts command of the U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll, by receiving the USAKA flag from Col. Roger F. Matthews, deputy commander for operations, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command.

New Year's reception, but after those events, I will then visit my second family in El Paso. I have been in units that did not have a first lady of that unit. I plan to ask for assistance from the leadership in the community and request their assistance with different events.

"Life is a continuous learning cycle. I am sure I will learn a lot from the people who live and work on Kwajalein Atoll as well as the testing and evaluation process which is conducted on the island. I am also sure I will learn how to manage this small city with an international airport and harbor operations, schools, typical power and other facilities," the new commander said.

At the ceremony Reed said, "I will strive to become part of your team and over the next 24 months support the mission, personnel and activities of these islands."

Reed is a 1982 graduate of Western Kentucky University with a bachelor's of science in physical education. He also has a master's of education from the University of South Carolina. His most recent assignment was as the director for the Air Defense Artillery Test Directorate, U.S. Army Operational Test Command, Fort Bliss, Texas.

NASA announces STS-120 crew

SMDC/ARSTRAT
Public Affairs Office

NASA recently announced the crew of astronauts who will fly the space shuttle for mission STS-120.

Col. Douglas H. Wheelock, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, NASA Astronaut Detachment, has been assigned as one of the flight's mission specialists.

This mission will launch the Italian-built Node 2 connecting module to the International Space

Station. Wheelock will conduct both Extravehicular Activity and robotics operations during the mission's three scheduled spacewalks.

Wheelock, a native of Windsor, N.Y., will be making his first spaceflight during this mission. He began his Astronaut Candidate Training in 1998. Wheelock is a West Point graduate and has a master's degree in aerospace engineering from Georgia Tech, Atlanta.

Other members of the crew are Air Force Col. Pamela A. Melroy, who will command the STS-120 mission; Marine

Corps Col. George D. Zamka, who will serve as pilot; and Scott E. Parazynski, Navy Capt. Michael J. Foreman and Paolo A. Nespoli, a European Space Agency astronaut from Italy, will serve as mission specialists.

Army Col. Jeffrey N. Williams launched April 5 for a six-month mission at the ISS. That crew is conducting a variety of scientific experiments, to include studying the effects of long-term weightlessness.



Army Col. Douglas H. Wheelock

There is some good news in Iraq

By LuAnne Fantasia
SMDC/ARSTRAT
Public Affairs

Senior Executive Service Mark Lumer is the command's principal assistant responsible for contracting, who splits his time between Huntsville, Washington, D.C., and the rest of the world.

Lumer is a strong believer in small business — a trait he took with him when he was called to Iraq in 2004 by the Secretaries of the Army and Defense to assess contracts.

Although it's standard practice in the contracting world to announce who is awarded a contract, Lumer said, "When you do that in Iraq, you get people killed. Contractors — either Iraqi or from other countries — often become the insurgents' targets."

Lumer said that was one of many lessons-learned in the early days of the multinational forces in Iraq. "We need to change that regulation, so we're not required to identify the contractor in an area of conflict."

Many regulations and standard operating procedures do not apply to the day-to-day reality of working in an area of conflict. "We simply were not prepared to reconstruct the country," Lumer said. "We didn't realize what bad shape the infrastructure of the country was in."

The Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund, or IRRF, is an \$18 billion U.S. effort to give the Iraqi people a helping hand toward self-sufficiency and rebuilding their country after more than 35 years of oppression and neglect. The reconstruction part of IRRF includes over 3,000 nationwide reconstruction projects to refurbish electricity, water, sewage, and oil networks; schools, hospitals, health clinics, federal buildings; military facilities; and police and fire stations.

Lumer said — through no one's fault — some procurement procedures were not handled properly. "We need a new section in the Defense Federal Acquisition Supplement that gives contracting officers creative license in an area of conflict," he said, "and we need a trained and ready-to-go pool of civilians such as what the Army Corps of Engineers is doing."

A legal but rarely used option that could have been mandated but wasn't, is a requirement for U.S. industry to meet the needs of the military *first* in a war situation, according to Lumer. "And, we need a waiver to the 'Buy American' act. The Iraqis had Russian vehicles in Iraq when we first started going over there, but we couldn't order replacement parts through our American procurement system. We needed freedom to order them



Photo courtesy of U.S. Army

Col. Dave Bender's convoy stopped to visit with Iraqi children on their way to visit an electricity project. In the Iraq Reconstruction Program there are more than 400 electricity projects programmed nationwide.

through foreign markets.

"We need a lot of waivers over there and the DoD procurement folks in OSD are working toward doing that now."

He praised the military, civilian and contractor teams working in Iraq as part of the coalition forces. "They truly are one team ... working 14- and 16-hour days, seven days a week. They are dedicated."

Chief Engineer

Col. Dave Bender echoed that statement.

"The days roll into each other ... but the camaraderie was great. It was normal to have meetings scheduled for 9 p.m.," he said.

Bender is the command's new deputy chief of staff for

See *Iraq* on page 6

Charlie Company learns to respond to terror

By Pfc. Jay R. Hanna
Unit reporter

LANDSTUHL, Germany — Many of the skills that are basic to every Soldier in the United States Army have little application in the daily operation of a Satellite Network Control Company.

On many occasions, Soldiers train in preparation for the possibility of deploying to a war zone, but oftentimes the training directly affects the daily aspects of their duty. Charlie Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON)'s, recently conducted Anti-Terrorism Force Protection (ATFP) exercise is an example of this kind of training.

ATFP training was designed to test Soldiers in every way. Charlie Company Soldiers proved that although they work in an air-conditioned environment controlling satellites, they never stop being Soldiers.

In the build up or crawl phase to the exercise, each squad conducted training on how to correctly perform body and vehicle searches, how to control entry and exit from an installation, and how to

properly use force under the U.S. Army Europe guidelines. This build up training assured that during the intermediate, or walk phase, instructors would be able to verify that all Soldiers grasped the basic concepts paramount to a successful event.

Over the three-day period, Charlie Company Soldiers began the run phase of training with a phone call in the early hours of the morning. When the phone call came, Charlie Company's Soldiers dressed and reported to the Company for weapons draw and a two-hour recall formation.

Once on site, the sleepy-eyed Soldiers quickly put on their "full battle rattle" (flack vests, load bearing equipment, gas masks and ballistic helmets) to protect the force. This drill included several scenarios that were combined to allow the Soldiers to experience the elements of a heightened Force Protection status. Moreover, Charlie Company Soldiers reacted to

simulated bomb threats, compromised vehicles, snipers, perimeter breaches and hostage situations.

In addition, they were tested in sweeping a building for hostages, responding to terrorists and explosives, as

'If every Soldier knows and executes each of his/her basic skill level tasks, then everything will go fine and the mission will be accomplished.'

— **Spc. David Blotter**
SMDC/ARSTRAT

well as controlling entry and exit from a U.S. facility. Interestingly enough, outside units helped to support the exercise in a manner unlike any support seen before. Soldiers from units that had previously been deployed to Iraq helped to teach the new techniques for searching personnel to make the exercise more realistic.

Even though some things did not go as planned, Spc.

David Blotter put it best when he said, "If every Soldier knows and executes each of his/her basic skill level tasks, then everything will go fine, and the mission will be accomplished."

"We are Satellite Network Controllers," said Spc. John Bittner. "We don't gear up every day, so it was a learning experience for even the veteran Soldiers. I think we found some shortcomings, but we will be able to grow from them. The ATFP exercise was a great positive."

The ATFP training directly benefited the readiness and safety of the Satellite Network

Control site in Germany. As with any training that falls outside of the scope of daily operations, there were mistakes and growth opportunities for every Soldier at every level, yet the exercise served to improve the company's ability to defend their site.

In the words of Donald Rumsfeld, "It is not a matter of if it will happen; it is a matter of when!"

Iraq

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engineers and was program manager for the electricity sector of the Iraq Reconstruction Program.

"We tried to mentor the Iraqis in contracting acquisition processes, as well as mentor them to stand up their new government. We tried to give them something to build on in every province," Bender added.

There are 15 provinces, or governorates, nationwide in Iraq. The IRRF was divided among the provinces based on local leadership's input on the most immediate needs, as well as national considerations.

Bender explained that the objective within the Reconstruction Program — for which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has oversight — was for the Iraqi people nationwide to have 12 hours of power a day. After the fall of Saddam's regime, there were only about 2,300 megawatts of power on the national grid; equating to roughly 2.7 million homes in a nation of more than 26 million people.

"The electricity projects combined are about \$3.1 billion [of the total \$18 billion IRRF], so it's only a kick-start to help the Iraqi institutions stand up and get started," Bender said.

Although the tour is daunting, Bender agreed it's an honor to work in Iraq ... to be there, working with the Iraqi people who risk their lives everyday because they believe in a new beginning for their country and they believe in what the coalition forces are trying to do to help them.

"A new government has taken hold now and the people are hopeful," Bender said. "But the work is never done. I turned my job over to my replacement. He is left to see completion of most of the electricity projects."

Back to the FWC via Iraq

From his office as deputy director of the command's Future Warfare Center, Col. David Cox reflected on his tour with the Multinational Forces, Iraq, or MNF-I, in Baghdad.

"You feel you're serving a valuable



Photo courtesy of U.S. Army

Since January 2004, Iraqi citizens have had three successful elections. Although too young to vote, this young Iraqi boy wanted to dip his index finger in the ink to indicate that even if he can't vote yet, he supports his right to do so some day.

cause while you're there because the Iraqi military and government officials are dedicated to what they're doing — trying to establish a new government with the capability to lead their country," Cox said.

Assigned to the MNF-I Strategic Communications Directorate, Cox assessed the effects of communications on the Iraqi people; and the effect the Iraqi and international media had on Iraqi citizens.

"They're bombarded with information from many different sources with widely divergent motives, agendas and perspectives," Cox said, "including the insurgents' perspective."

"Iraq has had three successful elections now, with the majority of the Iraqi people participating in free and fair elections — all the while the insurgents attempting to keep them from voting and doing everything they could to stop the elections."

Intimidation and fear of repercussion from the insurgents still does not stop the Iraqi citizens' determination to see their country become self-sufficient.

"The Iraq Reconstruction Program provides a jump start to upgrading the Iraqi infrastructure, which Saddam neglected for over 20 years," Cox said. "The program is upgrading power on the national grid, water treatment plants, oil fields, sewage systems, schools and buildings to give the Iraqi people a helping hand toward becoming self-sufficient."

"In my limited dealings with the Iraqi Prime Minister's office, it was clearly evident that they are determined to make all of these efforts a success," Cox added.

He explained that his directorate tried to develop the new Iraqi government's capability to manage their own affairs — to give it communications capabilities similar to those of their Coalition partners. "We actively supported their efforts to portray a clear understanding to the Iraqi public of what Coalition and Iraqi forces were doing for Iraqis in their country."

Cox said he has a new appreciation for the coalition forces and the Iraqi leadership.

"There's been no lag in support to service members even though some people have issues with the war effort itself," Cox added.

Establishing communications

When the deliverable is Pentagon-level communication services in a country without even the basic communications infrastructure, you build fiber optics, links and communication paths from the ground up.

During both his tours in Baghdad, Col. Timothy O'Hara said the lack of existing infrastructure in Iraq was the biggest challenge.

"We helped the Iraqis establish a variety of communications systems ... and helped stand up the Iraqi Army's own version of what we would call an unclassified computer network so they could communicate electronically within their Ministry of Defense," he said.

O'Hara reported to the command last month as the chief information officer and



Photo by Norris Jones, USACE

These school girls in Baghdad wanted to thank the coalition forces — including those working in the Reconstruction Program — for their refurbished school. Many of the mud schools in Iraq were remodeled to include solid roofs and floors, windows, ceiling fans, and restroom facilities.

G-6 (director of communications.) In Iraq, he was chief of the operations division for the communications and information systems directorate of the MNF-I, twice; Jan. – Sept. 2005 and Jan. – May 2006. O'Hara also supported the MNF-I headquarters and leadership.

"When I left, the Iraqi Army headquarters had Internet access and a fully functional network in their building. We had helped them develop the basic tools they needed to command and control their Army and defeat the insurgents, but technically they have a way to go. We helped them with the tools but they're still a very person-to-person society ... and still very much a paper society," O'Hara said.

O'Hara saw a lot progress between his first and second tours.

"[It's like] we're trying to teach them how to change a tire on a moving vehicle while it's going down the interstate," O'Hara said, "and, we teach them on a Monday and they have to use it Tuesday. Despite the challenges the Iraqis face, they learn quickly and they're motivated."

He said by the time he left this last time, the Iraqi Army was standing its ground and had taken over battle space from the coalition forces. "They were leading the fight and we were supporting them ... and this is a huge step forward for them, considering they have to worry about their family's safety as well as the insurgent threat ... unlike us," O'Hara said. "Our families are safe at home when we go to a war zone. There, their home is the war zone."

O'Hara feels the situation in Iraq has improved and will continue to improve over time. "When you compare the beginning to now, you see many improvements. The Iraqis I met are highly motivated to take back their country."

"I worked with an Iraqi general on our staff at the MNF-I, who came to the headquarters everyday. He wore civilian clothes to [the gate at Camp Victory], then changed into his uniform at the office," O'Hara said.

"At night, when I could walk back to my secure bunk, he still had to figure out how to get home safely. He had to constantly move his family and change his route to work. He could have left Iraq, but he didn't."

"I was impressed by his courage and his commitment."

(Note: Articles on Majors Mike Belton and Jason Conroy's redeployment from Iraq were published in The Eagle May 2005 and April 2004, respectively.)

Who needs sunshine to have fun?

By Spc. Sean Robbins
Unit reporter

FORT BUCKNER, OKINAWA, Japan — Echo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), spent the best rainy day ever on Torii Beach during their annual Organization Day May 25.

People began arriving around 8:30 a.m. hoping for the sun to clear the clouds away.

The grills were set up and the pavilions erected, while support platoon and 4th squad were finishing off the volleyball tournament for the coveted Commander's Cup trophy.

Unfortunately, all hopes for sun were drowned out by rain. However, being

resilient Soldiers, Echo Company made better of it than any day of sunshine could have ever been.

Spc. Sean Robbins and Sgt. Evevetta Crawford spent the day behind a grill cooking tubs of shrimp, beans, steaks and chicken. Although there were only about 50 Soldiers and family members present, they devoured much of the food but still had some left over for their fellow shift-working Soldiers who were not fortunate enough to make it to the event.

Capt. Todd Vick and Spc. Eric Ludwig were great sports letting the children drop them off the high seat in the dunk tank for hours on end while Spc. Patrick Ato and others escorted children up the steps of Torii Beach's water slide.

"Despite the rain, it was a great event with delicious food, fun activities and fierce competition," said Capt. Jason Shin, Echo Company's executive officer. He continued, "My favorite part of the day was having the opportunity to interact with the family members and kids. It gave me a sense that we are one big family at Echo Company."

Along with the muddy volleyball game, Soldiers and family members also got a chance to play horseshoes and a few lucky Echo Soldiers got to dunk the commander and soak him through with a surprise slap of the dunk button.

In the end, a little rain could not keep the Eagles from accomplishing their mission this day — having fun.

Bravo Company has family oriented hail and farewell

Bravo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON)

FORT MEADE, Md. — Bravo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, held its third quarter hail and farewell on June 9, and in conjunction with the hail and farewell, the company

family readiness group sponsored a pie-in-the-face fundraiser. It gave Soldiers a chance to relieve some stress and throw some "homemade" pies in the senior leadership's face.

The hail and farewell was held on the Fort Meade picnic

ground, a first for Bravo Company. In the past, hail and farewells were held at local restaurants, but a decision for the change was made because restaurants are always loud, noisy and crowded. "I wanted to have a personal, family oriented hail and farewell," stated Capt. Jermaine Sutton, Bravo Company commander. "In the past, it was too loud to hear anything that was said about the outgoing and incoming Soldiers."

The event started at 4 p.m. with hamburgers and hot dogs on the grill. As Soldiers and their family members arrived, they were welcomed by the command group and urged to grab some food. Once everyone arrived and the food was almost gone, Sutton began with the farewells. The Soldiers that were farewelled were Spc. Tyler Alcos, Spc. Jerry Dotseth, Sgt. Brett Elms and Staff Sgt. Matthew Smith. Each Soldier was presented a company plaque, so they could always remember the special

memories while they served at Bravo Company.

After all the farewells were complete, Sutton welcomed the new Soldiers to the unit. The Soldiers hailed were Pfc. Leon Kennedy, Spc. Chris Ford, Spc. Demetria Hunt, Sgt. David Rasmusson, and the company's new operation analyst Javier Montero.

After the hail and farewell was complete, the family readiness group held their first ever pie-in-the-face fundraiser. Of course, all of the senior leadership volunteered to get a pie in the face. The pies were originally going to be made with whipped cream, but it ran out quickly. So as usual, the Soldiers of Bravo Company improvised making pies with ketchup, mustard, pasta, oatmeal, tuna fish and any other ingredient they could find. In all, the company raised \$500 while having a fun experience and giving Soldiers a chance to show how much they appreciate their senior leadership.



Photo by 1st Lt. Matthew Kisner

All three platoon sergeants decided they wanted to get pied together. From left to right: Sgt. 1st Class Lamar Lauderdale, Staff Sgt. Patrick Anderson and Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Rivera.

Echo Company conducts successful range qualification

By Spc. Brian Metz
Unit reporter

FORT BUCKNER, OKINAWA, Japan — The most recent M16/M9 range for Echo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, on May 16 was full of surprises and good results.

Early rain during the departure threatened to add some mud to the ranges, but fortunately Fort Buckner's rain was not drenching the firing ranges on Camp Schwab up north. The ADVON team departed at 3:45 a.m. with the main body following at 4 a.m. to conduct a night fire.

Due to host nation restrictions, U.S. forces are not allowed to use tracer rounds for any reason. Despite that, the Eagles adapted, overcame and conducted the night fire with all first time "GOs", or passes, before beginning normal qualifications.

Spc. Jeremy Jacobs had the first surprise with an odd weapon malfunction after his first shot that forced him to borrow Sgt. Michael Brondsema's weapon to qualify. Unfazed, Jacobs went on to shoot expert, one of 13 Echo Company Soldiers to do so.

Spc. Brett Bouley had the biggest surprise when he combined a quick fire technique he used during the prone supported position. This unorthodox combination resulted in one of four perfect scores on the day. Things went equally well for the Soldiers who qualified on the M9, with two of the four qualifiers shooting expert.

Everyone qualified in few enough attempts that sufficient ammunition was left for some unscheduled live-fire training.

Sgt. Nicholas Alksnitis gave a brief class with demonstrations on Close Quarter Firing and proceeded to oversee the actual exercise.

The training was directly related to the MOUT (Military Operations in an Urbanized Terrain) training Echo Company conducted during its recent field training exercise and provided good experience with a type of tactical firing not normally practiced at a strategic unit.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mike Leiby

Echo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), Soldiers line up on the firing line during an M16 range qualification.

Perhaps the best surprises were the ones that didn't happen, namely no Habu snakes encountered, no missing weapon parts, and no preventable injuries thanks to a good safety briefing and the proverbial "attention to detail."



Photo by Sharon L. Hartman

Sgt. Heidi Jugovic reassembles an M240 machine gun during the weapons proficiency portion of the competition.



Sgt. Heidi Jugovic fires an M16 as part of the range qualifications.

Candidates enter for 2006 NCO,

By Ed White
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Four candidates for U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command Soldier of the Year and four candidates for SMDC/ARSTRAT Noncommissioned Officer of the Year vied with each other over a 10-day period in June to see who would go on to represent SMDC/ARSTRAT as Soldier and NCO of the Year at the Department of the Army level competition. They came from around the world — communicators, early warning specialists and missileers alike, the best of the best in their home units.

They each gave all they had, and in the end, Sgt. Stacy-Lyn De La Hoz of Bravo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), was named NCO of the Year. Soldier of the Year was Sgt. Patrick Mann of Charlie Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), in Landstuhl, Germany.

For the 10 days of competition, the candidates ranged over Peterson Air Force Base and Fort Carson doing preparatory training, getting a basic issue of field equipment and demonstrating their basic Soldier skills in a variety of venues. They were issued, zeroed and fired M16s. They ran

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Photo by Sharon L. Hartman

Sgt. Patrick Mann writes down coordinates to plot his next point for the daytime land navigation.



Photo by Ed White

Sgt. Robert Adanitsh determines his location as he prepares to call in a nine-line medevac for a "wounded" Soldier.



Photo by Sharon L. Hartman

Sgt. Jeanette Padgett camouflages her Kevlar, one of 10 tasks that were a part of her STX.



Photo by Sharon L. Hartman

Sgt. Patrick Mann led the pack during the run portion of the physical fitness test.



Sgt. Regina Sierra shows Situational Training Exercise.



Photo by Ed White



Photo by Sharon L. Hartman

Sgt. Stacy-Lyn De La Hoz disassembles an M2 machine gun to display her weapons proficiency.

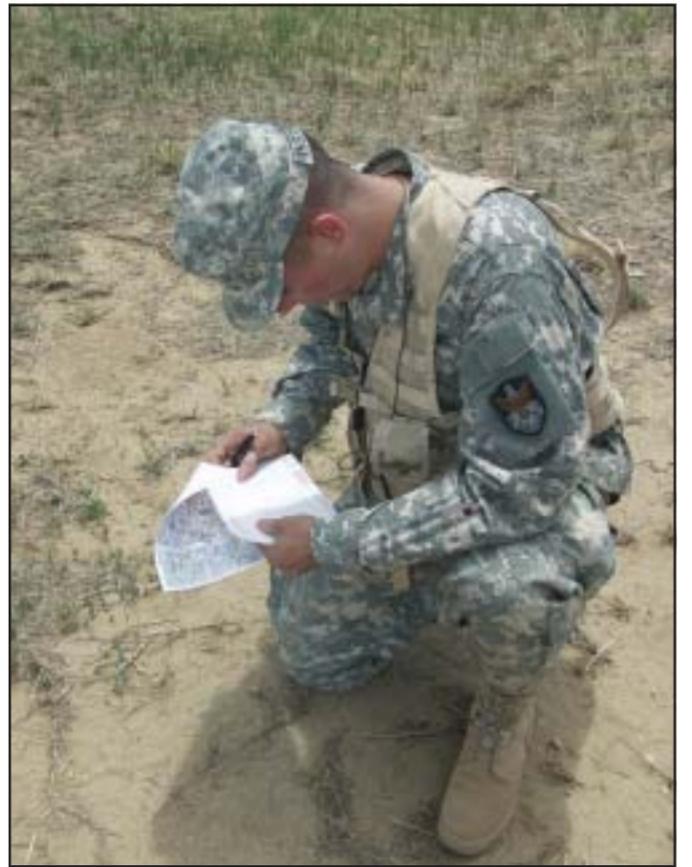


Photo by Sharon L. Hartman

Sgt. Levi Ingersoll reviews his map during the daytime land navigation portion of the competition.

dure 10-day competition Soldier of the Year titles

and night land navigation courses. They tested on warrior skills during STX (National Training Exercise) lanes, they took Army Physical Fitness Test, and finally they appeared before a board composed of six command sergeants major. The board tested their abilities under pressure and their abilities to

Sgt. Stacy-Lyn De La Hoz, who joined the Army from New Mexico, said her favorite event was, "the land navigation. I have used night navigation devices before, but this was the longest amount of time I've been able to use them. That was probably the most fun I've had in my life."

Sgt. De La Hoz added, "The NCOs who put this competition together were outstanding. It was a very challenging competition, very realistic." Staff Sgt. Amos gave his opinion on the quality of the competition. "I was blown away by this competition. The support they (the NCOs who ran the competition) gave us was phenomenal! The STX lanes, the weapons, the land nav, everything was challenging."

The conduct of the board was the final hurdle of the competition. The way the command sergeants major handled it clearly demonstrated both their professionalism and the mission of the NCO corps.

The six sergeants major represented about

150 years of military service. They asked the competitors questions on subjects ranging from military history, drill and ceremonies, administrative requirements for leading Soldiers, knowledge of weapons and the ability to teach skills to their Soldiers ... things the competitors need to know at their level of leadership to conduct the everyday business of being a Soldier.

The sergeants major also critiqued everything from leadership skills, leaders' books, paperwork requirements, knowledge of regulations, how to counsel their Soldiers, and the candidate's military appearance in a strong and corrective way. They were using the board itself to continue to train and teach these Soldiers a variety of lessons.

"Training and developing leaders is our business," SMDC/ARSTRAT's most senior NCO, Command Sgt. Maj. David Lady said of the competition. "Every Soldier and NCO who competed here is superb. Two will go on to the next level of competition, but every competitor gave everything they had. What has been accomplished here is going to benefit teams of Soldiers deploying in support of warfighters and teams of Soldiers on the OC [Operations Center] floors throughout the world. Their teams are going to be better. Mission accomplishment will be better," Lady concluded.



Photo by Sharon L. Hartman

Staff Sgt. Donald Amos prepares to perform push ups for the physical fitness portion of the competition.



Photo by Sharon L. Hartman

A veteran's smile after completing the STX (STX) lane.



Photo by Sharon L. Hartman

Sgt. Stacy-Lyn De La Hoz calls in for fire as Sgt. Matthew Funk, last year's Soldier of the Year, observes her during the STX portion of the competition.

Awards/Promotions

Military Promotions

Spc. Michael Jufer, Fort Detrick, Md., 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), A Company

Spc. Josef Vasquez, Fort Detrick, Md., 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), A Company

Pfc. Glen Nichols, Pacific, 1st Space Battalion, 1st Space Company, C Detachment

Staff Sgt. Matthew Brown, Colorado Springs, Colo., 1st Space Battalion, 1st Space Company

Staff Sgt. David Engelhardt, Camp Roberts, Calif., 53rd Signal Battalion (SATCON), D Company

Staff Sgt. Gilbert Garcia, Texas, 1st Space Battalion, 1st Space Company, B Detachment

Col. Thomas Quintero, Colorado Springs, Colo., G-3

Maj. William Riley, Fort Monroe, Va., Future Warfare Center

Civilian Promotions

Gregory T. Trammell, Huntsville, Technical Center, Directed Energy Division

Brenda S. Turner, Huntsville, G-2, Security Division

Jason A. Williams, Huntsville, Technical Center, Interceptor Division

On-the-Spot Cash Awards

Jason Baker, Huntsville, Future Warfare Center, Models and Simulations Division

Kelly Davis, Huntsville, Future Warfare Center, Force Design and Organization Integration Division

Sherry Fincher, Huntsville, G-8, Program and Policy Division

Stacy Houk, Huntsville, Technical Center, GMD Matrix

William Jordan, Huntsville, Future Warfare Center, Models and Simulations Division

Brenda Rains, Huntsville, Technical Center, Operations

Bradley Roe, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition Command Analysis Division

Richard Russell, Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site, Technical Center, Safety Branch

Dennis Stout, Huntsville, G-2, Technical Center Matrix

Emily Vann, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition Command Analysis Division

Special Act Awards

Peggy Adams, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix

Lolita Allas, Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site, Technical Center, Information Management Branch

Mike Andrews, Huntsville, Chief Information Office, Plans and Operations Division

Diana Cochran, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition Integrated Capability Management Division

Joseph Motley, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition Command Analysis Division

Katherine Schaper, Huntsville, Chief Information Office, Plans and Operations Division

Terrell Swindall, Huntsville, Technical Center, Safety Office

Beth Whitaker, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition Command Analysis Division

Time-Off Awards

Kelly Davis, Huntsville, Future Warfare Center, Force Design and Organization Integration Division

Kathleen Gotto, Huntsville, Technical Center, Lethality Division

Charles Hill, Huntsville, Future Warfare Center, Models and Simulations Division

Shelia Noel, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition Integrated Capability Management Division

Terrie Russell, Huntsville, Future Warfare Center, Models and Simulations Division

Bunnie Scales, Huntsville, Research, Development and Acquisition Integrated Capability Management Division

Zakiyyah Shakoore, Huntsville, G-1, Plans, Policy and Training Division

Alan Taylor, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff Engineer, Engineering Division, Construction Branch

Ronnie Vandagriff, Huntsville, Deputy Chief of Staff Engineer, Engineering Division, Operations Branch

Invention Awards

James Alexander, Huntsville, Technical Center, GMD Matrix

David Hayes, Huntsville, Technical Center, GMD Matrix

Length of Service

15 Years

Steven Bryant, Huntsville, Technical Center, Interceptor Division

Terrell Swindall, Huntsville, Technical Center, Safety Office

20 Years

Terry Cash, Huntsville, Technical Center, PEOMS Matrix

Carlos Febles, Colorado Springs, G-6, Information Management

Lawrence Grosberg, Huntsville, Technical Center

Randal Norton, Huntsville, Technical Center, GMD Matrix

Ronald Parks, Colorado Springs, G-4, Logistics Operations Division

David Payne, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix

Amarjit Singh, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix

Melinda Still, Huntsville, Technical Center, Test and Evaluation Directorate

25 Years

Philip Avery, Huntsville, Technical Center, GMD Matrix

Rhonda Brock, Huntsville, Contracting and Acquisition Management Office, Policy and Pricing Division

Willard Kistler, Huntsville, Technical Center, GMD Matrix

O. Wayne Koger, Huntsville, Contracting and Acquisition Management Office, Division K

Gisele Wilson, Huntsville, Technical Center, Technology Directorate, Sensors Division

30 Years

William Dobbs, Huntsville, Technical Interoperability and Matrix Center

35 Years

Wanda Igo, Huntsville, Future Warfare Center

Deloise Ragland, Huntsville, Technical Center, MDA Matrix

40 Years

Billie Greenhill, Huntsville, G-8, Program Support Division

49th Soldiers make WLC Commandant's List

By Sgt. Jack W. Carlson III
Unit reporter

FORT GREELY, Alaska — Soldiers from the 49th Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) graduated the two-week Warrior Leader Course held at Fort Richardson, Alaska, June 16.

The class of 55 students had 18 GMD Soldiers. Three troops from the 49th made the Commandant's List — Sergeants Tony Craidon and Javier Arreguin and Spec. Melissa Gradeless. Craidon

also received the title of Distinguished Leader.

A student must be in the top 20 percent of the class to be recognized on the Commandant's List. All students vote on the Commandant's List Soldier they believe shows the most leadership potential. The top three vote-getters then face a board of senior noncommissioned officers that determines who will be named Distinguished Leader.

"Typically, a board would ask questions dealing with common level tasks such as first aid,

components of physical fitness, Army programs and Army history," Craidon said. "This board dealt with the subjects we had been studying; primarily the three categories of Army leadership — be, know, do — land navigation and leadership counseling."

The WLC is the new format for the Primary Leadership Development Course. In the newly formatted course, students spend more time doing hands-on training in a field environment and less time engaged in classroom studies. Instructors' main training

objective is to evaluate a student's ability to lead Soldiers in a tactical environment, according to 1st Sgt. Wardell Jefferson, deputy commandant, WLC.

Also from the 49th and graduating from the WLC were: Sergeants Joseph Brokus, Jeremy Christensen, Craig Davis, Michael Diachenko, Kip Jones, Larry Martin, Michael Mathews, Katja Paul and Joshua White and Specialists Paul Brown, Michael Dean, Duane Ostrowski, Jason Stolz, Todd Turner and Reuben Vargas.

Deployed Soldier earns senior NCO rank

By Maj. James T. Bushong
Commercial Exploitation Team Leader

BAHRAIN — “Today is not only a great day for Tim Drye and his family, but it is also a great day for the joint warfighting community in recognizing the abilities of one of their own as we pin this great Soldier to sergeant first class,” said Maj. James T. Bushong as he prepared to pin one of the space communities’ newest senior noncommissioned officers.

Sgt. 1st Class Drye is the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Commercial Exploitation Team deployed to Bahrain in support of U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) and the ongoing war on terrorism through OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM and OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM. As the NCOIC of a technical special operations team, Drye plays a pivotal role in the success of this mission.

Under Drye’s leadership the team has produced more than 120 products in support of the coalition and joint forces arrayed throughout theater. Even though the team is an Army asset, more than 70 percent of their work goes to other services in support of flight operations, seaborne operations and governmental construction /reconstruction projects.

This is where Drye’s superb communication skills come into play. Through his day-to-day activities he interacts with members of other services and governmental organizations and translates their needs into the technical terms that are required to give them exactly what they need. He is a key enabler in the process of supporting the warfighter.

Drye understands what it is like to be that warfighter on the ground. His first tour in the USCENTCOM area of responsibility was as a combat infantryman in Iraq. He has been in fire-fights and raids, and he understands the value of commercial imagery to the operator no matter what service or capacity they are in. It is this understanding that makes him such a valuable member of this team.

Despite his experiences, Drye is a man of few words. Facing the crowd of roughly 15 Soldiers, Coast Guardsmen and Sailors,



Courtesy photo

Maj. James T. Bushong, Commercial Exploitation Team leader, congratulates newly promoted Sgt. 1st Class Tim Drye after Drye’s promotion ceremony in Bahrain.

the only words he had were, “If you younger guys out there work hard and keep yourself straight, you can get here too.”

Drye and his team have been deployed for four months and will redeploy in early 2007.

Students have a blast while learning about space

SMDC/ARSTRAT
Public Affairs Office

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — Fifteen U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Association scholarship winners attended Space Camp here July 2-7.

They completed missions for Mars, performed numerous space-related experiments, and trained for a space launch and landing.

Each year, ASMDA sponsors scholarships to send children

to the camp. The students, ranging in ages from 9-11 and coming from Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Nebraska, Kwajalein Atoll and the District of Columbia, were selected from more than 50 applications. Winners were selected based on the applicant’s handwritten essays and school grades.

In addition to the weeklong camp, students attended a special luncheon with Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer.



Photos courtesy of U.S. Space and Rocket Center



During a special luncheon with Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer, students have an opportunity to pose for keepsake photographs.



Fifteen children attended Space Camp July 2 - 7 in Huntsville, Ala., through scholarships they won from the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Association.

Alpha Company welcomes two 'new(born)' members

By Spc. Kara Barcelo
Unit reporter

FORT DETRICK, Md. — Alpha Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, welcomed two new members to the Global Guardian family on May 23.

At 2:33 p.m., Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Demars' wife Emma gave birth to Andrew Edward Demars, who weighed in at eight pounds and 11 ounces. Andrew was the couple's second son; they also have a two year old named William. Emma and baby Andrew returned home the next evening, and both are very happy and healthy.

When asked of his feelings on this glorious occasion Demars stated, "What more could a father ask for? Today

beautiful family just got more beautiful. Fortunately for Andrew, he has the look of his mother."

girl later that evening, only one week prior to Schaefer's Change of Command. Weighing in at six pounds and 15 ounces, Alexa Reagan is the Schaefer's third daughter, joining older sisters Abigayle, two, and Devyn four.

Schaefer, soon to be working for NATO in Heidelberg, Germany, said, "I did not think it was possible to top my wonderful time in Alpha Company, but my beautiful

wife and new daughter proved me wrong. It has been an amazing week."



Left, Andrew Edward Demars, right Alexa Reagan Schaefer

Courtesy photos

my wife has given me another healthy son. Today, we are truly blessed, and our

Not to be outdone, Capt. Joseph Schaefer's wife Dina gave birth to a healthy baby

Safety

Slips, trips, falls can be prevented

SMDC/ARSTRAT Safety Office

Slips, trips and falls (STFs) represent a major cause of accidental death and injury in both the home and work environment and often result in a disabling injury or even death. The fact is that almost all STFs can be prevented.

Slips occur when there is too little friction or traction between the footwear and the walking surface. Examples of causes are weather conditions (icy parking lots and sidewalks); slippery floor surfaces usually from spills; or loose, unanchored rugs or mats.

Trips happen when the foot collides (strikes, hits) with an object. Common causes of tripping are obstructed view, poor lighting, clutter in the walking path, uncovered cables/cords, and bottom drawers not being closed.

Both slips and trips often result in falls. Falls occur when the person moves too far off center of balance. For example, falling down a flight of stairs, falling off a ladder, or tripping over the edge of a curled carpet or floor mat edge.

The problem with falls is that there is seldom anything in place to absorb the fall resulting in an impact that may cause an

injury to the person and/or damage to an object that the person may fall on. Those who suffer a fall may find their mobility and independence seriously restricted for the rest of their lives.

Most injuries caused by falls happen at ground level and not from high places. Chances of falling increase when it's dark, when things are not put away, when spills are not cleaned up quickly, or when weather hazards, such as icy parking lots and sidewalks, are present.

Falls are the most common office accident and often result in disabling injuries. Seemingly innocent office conditions — a small coffee spill on a tile floor or a frayed edge of a carpet — can cause a serious fall. Also falls account for about half of all accidental deaths in the home particularly for the elderly. Learning to recognize and correct STF hazards is the best insurance for protection.

Some of the most common causes of office and home falls are slipping on wet floors; tripping over electrical cords, open drawers, or toys; bending or leaning over while seated in a chair; falling down or up the stairs; and overreaching. Loose carpeting, objects stored in halls or on

stairs, poor lighting, improper footwear, and using makeshift "ladders" (such as a chair or stack of books) are other hazards that invite falls.

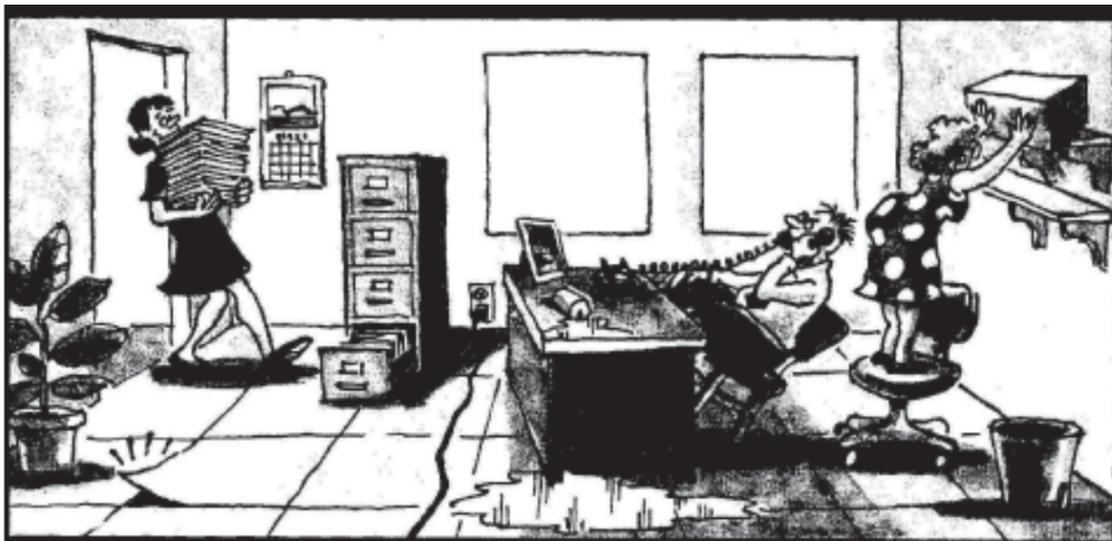
Use the following STF-prevention checklist to ensure a safer work and home environment for yourself, your co-workers, and your family:

- Be sure your pathway is clear before you walk.
- Close drawers completely after every use.
- Avoid bending, twisting and leaning backward while seated.
- Secure electrical cords and wires away from walkways.
- Always use a stepladder for overhead reaching.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- Pick up objects co-workers or toys children may have left on the floor.
- Securing (tacking, taping, etc.) mats, rugs and carpets that do not lay flat (report these problems to the facility manager at work).
- Hold onto the stairwell handrail when using stairs.
- Make sure walkways are well-lit.
- Never carry anything that obscures your vision.
- Wear stable shoes with nonslip soles.
- Don't run indoors!

If you ever find yourself heading for a fall, remember — roll, don't reach. By letting your body crumple and roll, you are more likely to absorb the impact and momentum of a fall without injury. Reaching an arm or leg out to break your fall may result in a broken limb instead.

STFs cause numerous injuries every day, but they are among the easiest hazards to correct. Take the time to look around your work and home environment for these hazards and take responsibility to correct them. Be aware of where you are going, what you are doing, and keep a lookout for hazards that others might miss.

Don't let a slip, trip or fall keep you from enjoying all that life has to offer.



There are seven fall hazards in this picture. Can you find them?

Construction progress becomes apparent with topping-off ceremony

In the first photo, progression of the Von Braun Complex on Redstone Arsenal, Ala., becomes apparent as construction workers celebrate with an informal "topping-off" ceremony June 14. Topping-off ceremonies for new construction date back to the late 1800s and were introduced to the United States by Scandinavian construction workers. It has become a cherished custom whenever a building's final steel element is put into place. The tradition includes a small evergreen tree placed on the structure's "last steel beam" to acknowledge the safe and successful attainment of the highest point of a construction project. The tree represents the life and growth of the building and is a good luck charm for the future occupants of the building. The second photo shows the work completed as of July 17. The project, which began in October 2005, will eventually become home to the Missile Defense Agency. It will contain approximately 234,000 square feet and house nearly 1,000 employees. The contract was awarded to Turner Universal Construction Company Inc. of Huntsville, Ala., for more than \$30 million. The scheduled completion date is May 2007.



June 14



July 17

Photos by Dottie White

Safety

Learn, practice motorcycle safety

Don't become the next preliminary loss report

SMDC/ARSTRAT Safety Office

An 18-year-old Soldier was riding with a civilian female passenger on a Honda CBR 600 motorcycle he had purchased the week prior. The Soldier attempted to negotiate a curve, lost control, and ran off the road. He was not wearing his helmet because he had given it to his passenger who received minor injuries. The Soldier was transported to the local medical center where he later died as a result of severe head trauma. The Soldier had just received a Safety Briefing from his commander at a unit formation covering motorcycle safety and procurement prior to purchasing the motorcycle. He had not attended an Army approved Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) course and speed was a factor in this crash.

A 20-year-old specialist had been drinking earlier that evening and ended up at a fellow Soldier's apartment. When the specialist decided to leave, the other Soldier was unable to convince him to stay. Minutes later the specialist drove his 1997 Suzuki Bandit 1200 motorcycle into the back of a slow-moving construction pickup truck. The Soldier was ejected on impact, and the motorcycle burst into flames. The Soldier was not wearing a DOT approved helmet or other required personal protective equipment (PPE). He was not licensed and had not attended the Army approved MSF course. Alcohol was a factor.

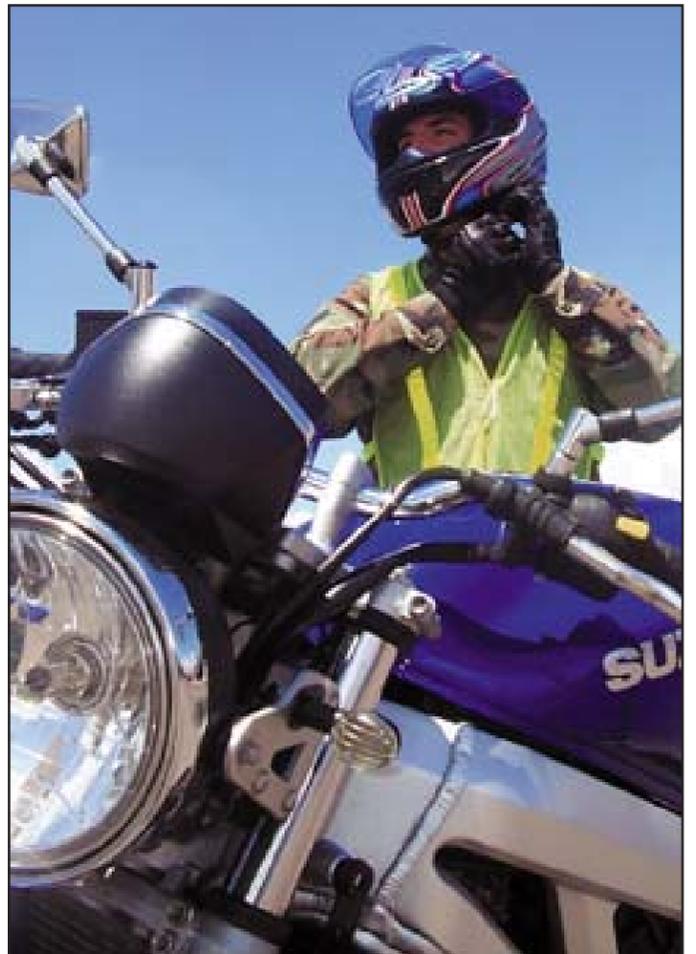
A 31-year-old sergeant first class, on R & R from Iraq, was riding a 2002 Honda CBR motorcycle when it drifted onto the shoulder causing it to flip end-over-end and eject the Soldier. The Soldier was taken to the local medical center where he later died from his injuries. Although the sergeant first class was properly licensed and had taken the Army approved

MSF course, he chose not to wear a helmet. Speed was a factor.

A 22-year-old private first class was riding another Soldier's 2006 Suzuki GSXR 750 when he crossed an oncoming lane and hit the curb causing it to flip end-over-end and eject him. The Soldier was taken to a local medical center where he later died from his injuries. The PFC was not licensed and had not attended an Army approved MSF course. He was not wearing a helmet or other PPE, and alcohol was a factor.

A 26-year-old sergeant was hosting a unit barbeque, when he decided to try out a 2004 Yamaha YZF-R6 600cc motorcycle owned by a specialist. The sergeant was observed traveling at a high rate of speed, lost control and crashed hitting his head on the curb sustaining a severe open-head injury. Several Soldiers immediately ran to the scene and administered first aid until Emergency Medical Services arrived. He was then taken to a local medical center where he was pronounced dead-on-arrival. The Soldiers had just received a unit safety briefing, which included motorcycle safety ten hours prior to the incident. The sergeant was not wearing a helmet or any other PPE. Speed and alcohol were factors.

A 30-year-old staff sergeant was riding a 2006 Suzuki GSX 1300 RK6 Hayabusa when he lost control just before entering a 35 mph curve. The motorcycle struck the curb, left the road, and ejected the staff sergeant into a pine tree. He was taken to a local medical facility where he later died from blunt force trauma to the chest. The Suzuki Web site states the Hayabusa is "the fastest production bike on the planet." The Soldier was wearing all required PPE, was properly licensed and



Courtesy photo

had completed the Army approved MSF course. The investigative police officer stated speed and inattentiveness were factors.

As of June 15, 2006, there were 85 motorcycle accidents for fiscal year 2006 that resulted in 35 Soldier fatalities compared to 28 Soldier deaths for the same time frame in fiscal year 2005. That's 35 Soldiers who won't be going home to their families — their loved ones.

For more information on motorcycle safety, visit the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command Safety Web site at <http://www.smdc.army.mil/SAFETY/Safety.html>.

Civilian News

Watch what you forward in your office e-mail

The Office of Special Counsel prevailed in two cases last week to strictly enforce Hatch Act prohibitions against workplace political activity by federal civil service employees. In each case, the crackdown was directed at illicit e-mail missives. In one case (Special Counsel v. Morrill), a fed fired off a fawning invitation — to 300 fellow feds at their work e-mail addresses — to a Halloween party for Rep. Tim Holden (D-Pa.). In another case (Special Counsel v. Davis and Sims), one worker e-mailed to colleagues a photo of President Bush along with glowing praise, while a second employee had sent out a pro-Kerry e-mail. In every case, the Merit Systems Protection Board ruled that these acts constituted banned political activity — upholding a 60-day suspension in the Morrill case and remanding the other to a judge for re-adjudication.

Union launches radio show for feds

The American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) began broadcasting a nationwide radio show on June 30 to discuss issues affecting federal employees. According to a press release, the show — called “Inside Government” — is scheduled to take place every Friday at 10 a.m. and can be heard on 1050 AM in Washington, D.C., or online at www.federalnewsradio.com. The show will feature interviews and commentary with political leaders, union officials and journalists. “This show will give the real story on what is happening inside our federal agencies and the rights of federal employees,” said AFGE President John Gage.

Stolen VA laptop recovered

A laptop containing the private information of millions of veterans that was stolen last month from the home of a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) employee has been recovered, according to VA Secretary Jim Nicholson. The machine contained the Social Security numbers and other personal information on as many as 26.5 million veterans and their families, and its loss resulted in millions of dollars spent on VA help lines and congressional hearings on subjects ranging from the theft itself to data security in general. Secretary Nicholson called the find “a very positive note in this very tragic incident.” Though the security of the data has not been verified, Nicholson said he remained optimistic that none of the information reached identity thieves. Meanwhile, the VA employee responsible — who is challenging his firing — reportedly had permission to take the laptop home.

Pay for performance employee awards proposed by OPM

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) proposed draft regulations to tie employee cash awards to performance on June 21, posted on the Federal Register Web site (<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/E6-9797.htm>). “This proposed change,” the draft says, “is designed to ensure that better performers receive greater recognition.” Under the new rule, employees would have to be rated fully successful or higher to be eligible for a cash award. In addition, an employee with a higher performance rating would receive a larger bonus (based on percentage of basic pay) than an employee with a lower performance rating. OPM noted that part 4505 (a), title 5 of the U.S. Code already establishes such a threshold. The new regulation would amend part 451, title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The proposed rule would not affect Senior Executive Service awards.

Contracting out federal jobs just got harder

A provision of a recently-passed House appropriations bill contains a key demand made in recent years by federal workers — that there must be proof that keeping work within the government (performed by government employees) would be comparatively costly before contracting that work out to private industry. The National Treasury Employees Union won the inclusion of the provision, which calls for Most Efficient Organization (MEO) teams of government workers to compete against contracting firms. Private firms would have to save at least 10 percent over the feds to win the job competition, with a \$10 million minimum savings. The bill also would prohibit the direct conversion of more than nine jobs to the private sector.

Military News

Cell Phones for Soldiers program continues

Teenagers Brittany and Robbie Bergquist began Cell Phones for Soldiers in April 2004 after they saw a news report about how expensive it was for a Soldier stationed in Iraq to call home. Since then, they have raised more than a million dollars. From cash contributions and money acquired by recycling donated used cell phones, the organization buys calling cards and distributes them to deployed or deploying Servicemembers. The organization has more than 4,000 sites nationwide where people can drop off their used cell phones. For more information, visit the Cell Phones for Soldiers website at www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com.

Enhanced TRICARE open season coming

TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) “open season” for Tier 2 and Tier 3 Selected Reserve members is Aug. 1 through Nov. 25. TRS is the premium-based health coverage offered by the Department of Defense similar to TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra. The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2006 expands TRS coverage to all qualified members of the Selected Reserve. Purchasing TRS coverage is a two-step process. For additional information, members may access TRS fact sheets, frequently asked questions, briefing slides and other educational materials on the Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserveselect.

SGLI premium rate changes

The monthly premium rate for basic Servicemember’s Group Life Insurance increased by 5 cents per month for each \$10,000 of coverage, from 65 cents per month per \$10,000 to 70 cents per month per \$10,000, effective July 1. As a result of this increase, members who have the maximum \$400,000 of SGLI coverage will see their monthly SGLI deduction from service pay increase by \$2 a month, from \$27 to \$29, beginning with their July pay. This monthly SGLI premium includes a \$1 per month charge for traumatic injury protection coverage, which took effect Dec. 1 and provides payments of up to \$100,000 for serious traumatic injuries.

TRICARE Reserve Select eligibility changes

DoD announced that all members of the selected reserve now have the option to purchase their health coverage from TRICARE. Health coverage for selected reserve members who apply for TRICARE Reserve Select and complete all the required steps will begin on Oct. 1. The new TRS program eligibility determination period runs from July 1 through Sept. 25. TRS is a premium-based, three-tier TRICARE health plan for certain selected reserve members and their families. Selected reserve members must work with their service personnel offices to determine which one of three TRS tiers they qualify for. They must have their eligibility verified by their service personnel office and complete the DoD Form 2895 before submitting their application to purchase TRS coverage. Only qualified selected reserve members may submit an enrollment form with the first month’s premium payment to purchase coverage. TRS program eligibility requirements can be viewed at www.defenselink.mil/ra/.

Registration begins for Military Idol

Active-duty Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and reservists can now register for a shot at becoming the second Military Idol. Contestants must be on active duty and assigned to the hosting installation. There is an exception for Soldiers not assigned to the installation, but they must provide their own transportation. Check with your local installation for a schedule of the Military Idol competition near you. Application forms and contest rules are available on the Internet at www.militaryidol.com. Applications, for vocalists only, must be submitted to local MWR offices on hosting installations.

Silent Thunder Memorial for Freedom underway

A former illegal alien from Iran who now is an American citizen is showing his love and appreciation for what his adopted country has done for him by building a memorial in Washington, D.C., to honor Servicemembers who have died in the global war on terrorism. Kevin Roustazad said his creation, a 45,000-pound, seven-foot-tall, 25-foot-long slash of granite, is going to have the name, date, hometown, branch of service, and the last place each fallen Servicemember served along with a picture of each soldier embedded into the stone. Roustazad has already started construction of the Memorial. For more information, visit the memorial’s Web site at www.silentthundermemorial.com.

Quality of Army recruits remains high

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army has filled its ranks without sacrificing quality, DoD's top personnel official told reporters July 11.

Active-duty and reserve components met recruiting goals in June for the 13th month in a row, said David S. C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

The Army reached 102 percent of its recruiting goal, enlisting more than 8,700 Soldiers. The National Guard recruited more than 5,800 Soldiers, 101 percent of its goal. The Army reserve also exceeded its goal by 21 percent, recruiting more than 5,600 members.

Chu called the fact that the military can fill the ranks of its volunteer force a testament to young peoples' desire to serve.

"I think it's an antidote to those who question the willingness of young Americans to put someone else before themselves, to put some larger cause first," he said.

More than 60 percent of the recruits came from the top half of mental-aptitude categories. More than 90 percent have a high-school diploma,

which "is the best predictor, we've found over many years of experience, that recruits will stay through their first enlistment," Chu said.

Chu said he is not disturbed by the increase in "category 4" personnel joining the Army. These recruits score in the lowest category of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery tests.

The Army recruits no more than 4 percent of its force from this category, meeting the DoD benchmark, explained Doug Smith, public affairs officer for U.S. Army Recruiting Command. For many years, the Army had a self-imposed 2-percent limit, he said, but raised it to 4 percent in 2005.

This stands in sharp contrast to the late 1970s, when as many as 45 percent of Army recruits could be drawn from category 4. Congress imposed a cap of 25 percent of new recruits in that category in fiscal 1981, then lowered the ceiling to 20 percent in fiscal 1983, according to Bob Clark, DoD's assistant director for accessions policy.

Chu said no one is looking to change the recruiting standards that have served the military so well.

"The standards have not changed. They are not going to change," he said. "We aim

for the department as a whole to have 90 percent of our new recruits ... be high school diploma graduates. We aim to have 60 percent score in the upper half of the mental distribution." And the department will insist on high moral standards, he said.

"Quality pays off" in varied ways, Chu said. "Quality pays off in ability to deal with difficult situations. Quality pays off in ingenuity in solving problems. Quality pays off in figuring out ... 'what did the lieutenant mean by those orders anyway?'"

The task now is to continue progress in the months ahead, he said.

"Obviously, recruiting is a bit like watching a high-wire performer," Chu said. "It's wonderful that we have done well so far, but there's always the challenge of tomorrow."

As of June 30, the Army had exceeded its year-to-date active-duty recruiting goal by 4 percent. The National Guard exceeded its goal by 3 percent, and the Army Reserve exceeded its goal by 1 percent.

(ARNEWS editor's note: Compiled from reports by the American Forces Press Service.)

Summertime, softball go hand-in-hand for Bravo Company

Spc. Thomas Tabor Unit reporter

FORT MEADE, Md. — It is summertime again, and sports fans know what that means. It's time to dig out the cleats, chalk up the base lines and dust off home plate.

If there is one thing at Bravo Company that is synonymous with summertime, it is Black Dragon softball.

The teams are decided, the schedule is set, and as of June 6, the Black Dragons' softball season was officially underway.

Sgt. Al Fatla and Spc. Alicia Brogden, both seasoned

softball players, are coaching the Black Dragons' team this year. Both coaches were members of the team, which excelled to the post playoffs last season.

When asked her thoughts of this season's team, Brogden replied, "We have a good team this year. We are coming together, and it is really starting to show with some solid wins."

This team is also being strengthened by the return of several players from last season. Among those players are Staff Sgt. Al Rosenberg, Sgt. Drew Sanders, Spc. Robert Wright and Bravo Company's own Commander

Capt. Jermaine Sutton.

In addition to the returning players, there are a few other seasoned players who are helping to strengthen some key positions. Recently assigned to Bravo Company, Spc. Chris Ford has been a pitcher for the past 12 years, and has proven to be a real asset to the roster.

"The turnout for the games so far has been great," stated Brogden. "This helps with the vision of what the team will be capable of doing as the season progresses. It will also help strengthen the interest for more people to become active with the other events, such as the upcoming

basketball and flag-football seasons."

There is also a strong showing of support and attendance from other Soldiers within the company, and their families. As the season has moved on, the attendance has increased.

"The support shown at the games helps the morale of the entire team," one player stated. "There is nothing like the support of a crowd, especially when it is coming from the people who you are around almost every day."

"Though there is some building still to be done. This team has good cohesiveness," added Brogden. "Let's be

honest, we are all really playing to just blow off steam and have fun!"

The regular season games are scheduled through July 27. After that, the playoff games begin for the Fort George G. Meade Post Championship. Having wins under their belts and an almost full season ahead, the Black Dragons play on. With their cleats tied up, gloves in hand and game faces on, one cannot mistake the call from the dugout on three ... "BLACK DRAGONS!"



Sgt. Joshua Rodriguez beats the throw to first base after he hit a ground ball to third base.

Photo by 1st Lt. Matthew Kisner

49th Soldiers follow sun's path during summer solstice

By Sgt. Jack W. Carlson III
Unit reporter

FORT GREELY, Alaska — Soldiers, civilian contractors and family members braved Donnelly Dome for the annual Summer Solstice Climb June 20.

At 9 p.m. on the longest day of the year, 49 people from the extended families of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) and Fort Greely garrison met at battalion headquarters.

The group then convoyed nearly 14 miles to the trailhead at Donnelly Dome to start the long hike to the top where they could watch the sun travel to the point farthest north.

"It is important for us to come together as a unit and family — team-building events

like the Donnelly Dome hike are but one way that we try to challenge ourselves and build cohesion within the organization," said Lt. Col. Edward Hildreth, commander, 49th MDBn.

Donnelly Dome is both a navigational point and a dominating fixture in Delta Junction's horizon and climbing the dome is a popular activity among both locals and tourists. With the actual height being 3,910 feet above sea level and 2,400 feet above actual ground level, the climb can be quite challenging.

"While challenging, the climb gave me a unique opportunity to experience the summer solstice and see the sun's path on the longest day of the year — not something you get to experience in the 'Lower 48,'" said Capt. Timothy Brower, intelligence officer,

49th MDBn.

Donnelly Dome was formed as a glacier originating from the Alaska Range split in two, carving away sides of a former

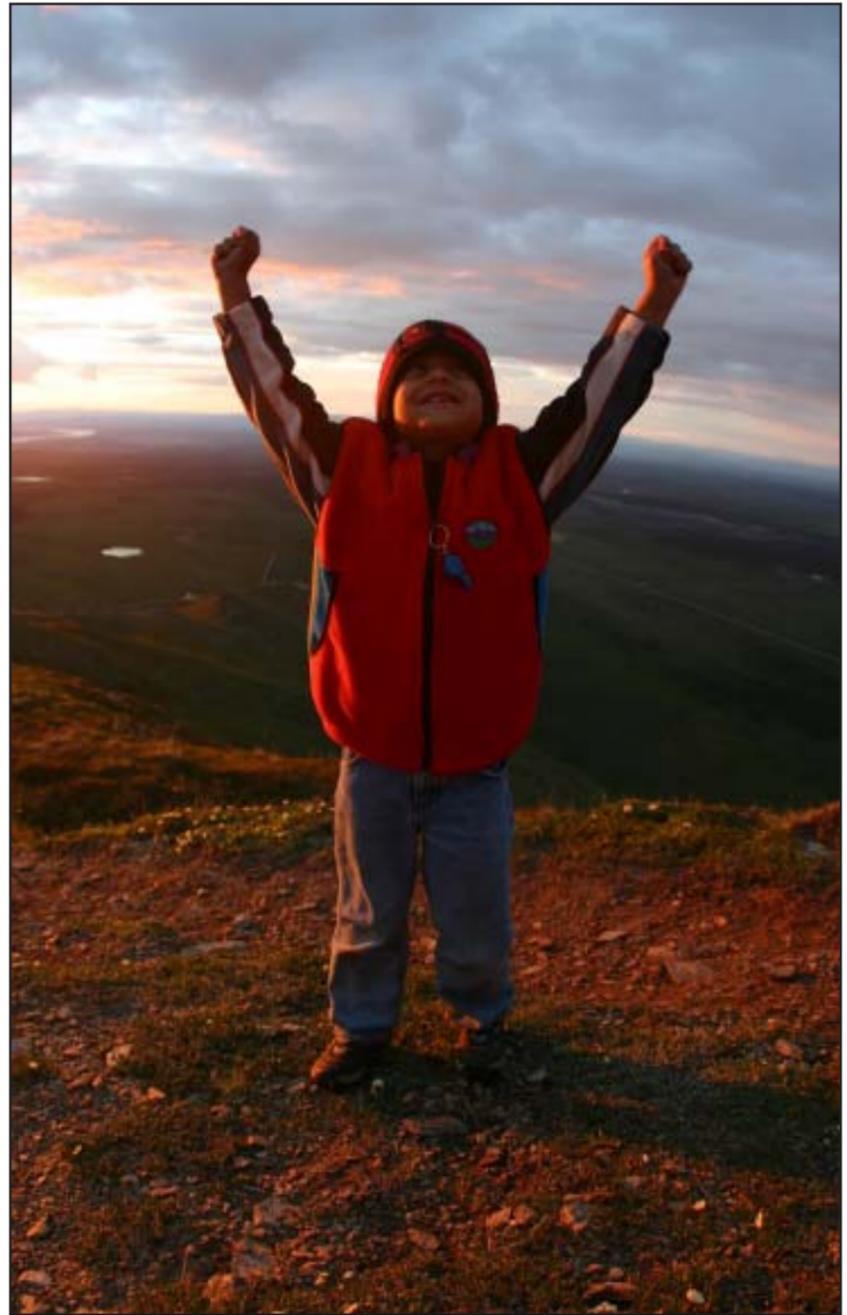
mountain. From the top, conquerors of Donnelly are treated to an amazing view of the Alaskan Mountain Range and the Granite Mountains.



Lt. Col. Edward Hildreth, commander, 49th Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse Defense), and his daughter Allison, 4, top the crest of Donnelly Dome during Fort Greely's annual Summer Solstice Climb June 20.



A lone military police officer crests Donnelly Dome and holds the MP Company colors at 3,910 feet during the annual Summer Solstice Climb June 20.



Photos by Sgt. Jack W. Carlson III

Zak McGill, 7, son of Capt. Mark Kiraly, assistant training and operations officer, 49th MDBn, lifts his hands in celebration at the top of Donnelly Dome June 20.



49th Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) Soldiers prepare to climb to the summit of Donnelly Dome on June 20.